#  February 5, 2015

Our Executive Council and committee meetings come to Orlando on March 19-21, and we will be “Puttin’ on the Ritz” in returning to the Ritz Carlton Grande Lakes.[[1]](#footnote-1) Of course, the word “Ritz” is synonymous with comfort and beautiful accommodations and the Ritz Carlton Grande Lakes is no exception.

Here is a brief day-by-day summary of what you can expect. In addition, please read the bullet-points appearing towards the end of this letter. I hope you will plan on joining us for the entire weekend and sign up for as many of our planned activities as you can. We are also providing the current meeting schedule, including committee meetings and social events, as well as room assignments, to help you plan. Please understand that this schedule could change before it is made “final”.

***Thursday*** will be a day full of committee meetings. At the end of that day, we will have earned the right to relax and enjoy some great food and beverage.

***Thursday evening*** will be spent at a very special venue for our welcoming reception, the **Cypress Grove Estate House**. It is described as *“Southern elegance nestled on a lakeside setting in the heart of Central Florida. The Estate House at Cypress Grove is a vintage 1925 estate. This charming colonial home sits on 80 acres of lush grounds boasting oak and cypress trees, radiant seasonal flowers, and perfectly manicured lawns, all on the cusp of Lake Jessamine.”* I assure you it lives up to this description. “Heavy” appetizers will be served. We will have someone say a few words about the history of the property. You may either drive to the reception on your own or go by bus from the Ritz for the small additional fee on the registration form. Be sure to fill in that portion that says you will be using bus transportation, if that is your preference! Our committee members who are not Executive Council members are also being invited to attend this event. However, they should only fill out the separate registration form that will be circulated.

We will complete the evening with some dessert and beverage at our hospitality facilities at the Ritz. ***See below for******something extra special at the hospitality area****.!!*

***Friday,*** committee meetings will last until 6:00 p.m. A continental breakfast and buffet grab and go lunch will be available on Friday for purchase, for a small charge. Please note that the **division roundtables will be conducted on Friday afternoon, from 3:00-5:00.**

Friday’s activities will conclude with a **sumptuous reception and dinner at the Ritz-Carlton**. But plan on staying after dinner. We will be joined by the **Eric Lagi Band**, a versatile and sophisticated jazz quartet, with a broad repertoire. They will perform for us after dinner. The hospitality area will be open afterwards. ***See below for******something extra special at the hospitality area****.!!*

***Saturday*** will start with a full breakfast for both Executive Council members, spouses and guests. There is a fee for breakfast for spouses and guests. The Executive Council meeting will begin promptly at 9:00.

We hope you will stay following the Executive Council meeting for some great events. We are looking into reinstating the RPPTL Volleyball game between the dirt and death, sides on Saturday afternoon! We hope you will be around for the renewal of what was always a fierce competition. Children of all ages are invited to participate. It is likely that some supporting beverage will appear. More to follow on this.

We hope you will stay following the Executive Council meeting for a very special dinner on Saturday night which we have arranged at ***Norman’s***, in the Ritz. Those of us from South Florida know *Norman’s* as a legendary restaurant here and nothing has changed in Orlando. *Norman’s is the James Beard “Who’s Who in America” Award-winning restaurant which features Chef and decorated Cookbook Author* [*Norman Van Aken*](http://www.normans.com/norman-van-aken/) *and his culinary team. Chef Van Aken’s internationally acclaimed “New World Cuisine” is an exciting, healthful and delicious fusion of Florida with the power of Latin, Caribbean and Asian roots.* This is a rare opportunity for us and I hope you will join us. You will have an opportunity to select from several options for appetizers, entrée and dessert. Wine is included in the price of the meal.

***Other good things to consider:***

* ***Running Reptiles***—Mike Bedke will again be leading our runners and walkers for early morning excursions. Meet in the lobby of the Ritz on **Friday at 6:30 a.m.** and on **Saturday at 6:00 a.m.**
* The Ritz-Carlton Spa is offering our attendees a **10% discount off their customary charges** for Spa treatments. The hotel’s Treatment Request Form is among the materials provided to you, so submit it as early as you can.
* Our **hospitality area**, open on Thursday and Friday nights, will have a **pinball machine**, a **Foosball Table** and a **basketball Double Shot machine**. Satisfy your competitive spirits!

We are really excited about this meeting and its business and social activities and we hope you are, too. **Please note that your registration forms and payments are due by March 2**. We cannot guarantee attendance at any event if your payment is received after that date. So don’t be disappointed and sign up and pay early.

We look forward to greeting you in March!

-Mike

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1. 1 (I will be interested to see how many inquiries I receive about what “Puttin’ on the Ritz” means). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)